

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 DRC-01

/153 W

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R 291615Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6233

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

UUINT BAGHDAD

USINT CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A DECON 1/29/75

TAGS: PFOR, XF, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET PROPAGANDA ON DISENGAGEMENT

REF: BEIRUT 945, 466 AND 804

SUMMARY: ATTACKS BY MOSCOW-CONTROLLED LEBANESE COMMUNIST
PRESS ON SUEZ DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND US ROLE THEREIN ARE
CONTINUING HERE WITHOUT LET-UP. HOWEVER, CLEAR SIGNS HAVE EMERG-
ED IN PRESS OF SOV DESIRE TO PALY ACTIVE ROLE IN SETTLEMENT EFFORT, IF

ONLY TO "PROTECT" ARABS FROM BEING VICTIMIZED BY "HOSTILE SCHEMES"
ALLEGEDLY BEING HATACHED BY US AND ISRAELI DIPLOMACY. END
SUMMARY.

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1. LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY WEEKLY, AL AKHBAR, ON JAN. 26 CARRIED SEVERAL ARTICLES AIMED AT "EXPOSING DANGERS OF FALLING INTO DISENGAGEMENT TRAP SET BY AMERICAN AND ISRAEL". MAGAZINE VOICED IRRITATION AT SADAT'S DESCRIPTION OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AS TURNING POINT IN MIDDLE HISTORY, AND NOTED IT WAS TRIUMPH FOR US DIPLOMACY WHICH MERELY AIMS AT RESTORING AMERICAN "IMPERIALIST" INFLUENCE IN ARAB WORLD AND STRENGTHENING "REACTIONARY ARAB FRIENDS" OF US IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST "ARAB LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND FORCES OF WORLD SOCIALISM". ACCORDING TO AKHBAR, SADAT'S "TURNING POINT" REPRESENTS CHANGE IN EGYPTIAN, RATHER THAN US OR ISRAELI, POLICY, SINCE GOSSET HAS "CLEARLY DEPARTED" FROM ITS PAST INSISTENCE ON COMPLETE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND RESTORATION OF PALESTINIAN "RIGHTS". RATHER THAN RESPONDING TO SADAT'S CALLS FOR MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD US, ARAB "NATIONALIST AND PROGRESSIVE FORCES" ARE URGED TO "REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS... TO WITHSTAND AMERICAN-ISRAELI REACTIONARY SCHEMES... TO FREEZE EGYPTIAN FRONT, ESCALATE PRESSURES AGAINST SYRIA, PAVE WAY FOR LIQUIDATION-SETTLEMENT WITH JORDAN, AND DESTROY ARAB ALLIANCE WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES".

2. IN AKHBAR'S VIEW, HOWEVER, ARAB INTEREST WOULD NOT BE SERVED BY "REJECTING REALITY, TURNING BACK ON EVENTS AND REFUSING TO ENTER THE STRUGGLE EFFECTIVELY ON (POLITICAL) LEVEL ON WHICH IT IS BEING FOUGHT". THIS WOULD MERELY LEAVE FIELD TO JORDAN TO CONCLUDE SEPARATE SETTLEMENT WITH ISRAEL AT EXPENSE OF OTHER ARABS, AND ALSO ENABLE "HOSTILE FORCES TO ENSNARE EACH ARAB STATE SEPARATELY, THUS INCREASING LIKELIHOOD OF FURTHER CONCESSIONS TO DEALS WITH AMERICA". ONLY BY DENYING US A "PRIVILEGED ROLE" IN FUTURE SETTLEMENT EFFORTS, SAID AKHBAR, CAN ARABS HALT DETERIORATION OF THEIR NEGOTIATING POSITION AND THEREBY STOP "AMERICA'S PEACE OFFENSIVE IN MIDDLE".

3. OTHER PUBLICATIONS, NOTABLY LEFTIST DAILIES AL MUHARRIR AND AL ILIWA, AND WEEKLIES AL BALAGH (PRO-ALGERIAN) AND AD DUSTOUR (PRO-CHINESE, PRO-IRAQI), ARE ALSO ECHOING ANTI-SADAT, ANTI-US SENTIMENTS OUTLINED ABOVE. OTHER PRESS TREATMENT OF DISENGAGEMENT ISSUE RANGES FROM CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM BEING DISPLAYED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY INDEPENDENT AND RIGHT-WING PAPERS TO COMPLETE ESPOSURE OF EGYPTIAN POLICY BY STANDEST PRO-CAIRO ORGANS, NOTABLY AL IACWAR.

4. BOTH AKHBAR AND ITS LCP SISTER-DAILY, AN NIDA, HAVE BEEN QUICK TO CONCLUDE FROM REPORTS IN FOREIGN MEDIA (TEL AVIV 489) THAT JORDAN "IS TRYING TO BENEFIT FROM CURRENT SITUATION" BY NEGOTIATING (WITH US ENCOURAGEMENT)

SEPARATE DIUENGAGEMENT ACCORD WITH ISRAEL. SUCH ACCORD, THEQ WARM, WOULD ENSURE RETURC OF WEST BANK TO HASHEMITE CONTROL AND THUS FRUSTRATE HOPES FOR ESTABLISHMECT OF INDEPENDENT PALESTIANIANIUTATE. WE NOTE THAT CONCERN OVER POSSIBILITY OF JORDACIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT HAS LATELY BEGUN RECEIVED WIDE PLAY INOTHER LEFTIST, PRO-FEDAQEEC ORGANS HERE,ESPECIALLY PLO (WAFa) DAILY BULLETINS, LURID WAFa DEUCRIPTIONS OF "SECRET COMMUNICATIONS" ACD "GREAT CONCESSIONS/ ALLEGEDLY TAKING PLACE BETWEEN KING HUSSEIN AND ISRAELIS, OFTEN BASEDION STORIES IN ISRAELI PRES, ARE BEING REGURGITATED REGU- LARLY IN NIDA.

5. COMMENT: SOVIET PROPAGANDA LINE NOTED PARAS 1 AND 2ABOVE STRIKES US AS PARTICULARLY CLEVER, SINCE IT ENABLES SOVS TO SNIPE EFFECTIVELY AT US, EGYPT AND "REACTIONARY" ARAB GOVTS WHILE AT SAME TIME ADVOCATING ARAB AND PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN SETTLEMENT PROCESS UNDER AEGIS OF USSR WHICH WOULD PLAY MORE ACTIVE ROLE AS "FRIENDLY PROTECTOR". HOUGHTON

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